

HF Happenings

No 501

April 2012

South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
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Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?

ITU Telecom World 2012 Conference Seeking Participants For Young Innovators Programme

As part of ITU Telecom World 2012 - scheduled for 14 to 18 October in Dubai - the conference will present the Young Innovators Program. With its theme of Youth Innovation for Development, the Young Innovators Competition is a chance for the next generation of young visionaries to demonstrate their ideas and innovations on this global stage and show how their fresh digital thinking can change the world for the better.

The program seeks to attract dynamic, engaged young people and identify projects with a genuine potential to succeed. The goal of the program is to build a cohesive international community of highly talented of social entrepreneurs from age 18 - 25 who are working on ICT-based initiatives from the conceptual stage through to projects in areas of critical relevance to the burning issues facing the world today.

Read more at <http://www.arrl.org/news/itu-telecom-world-2012-conference-seeking-participants-for-young-innovators-program>.

DX-Info

"DX-Info is a web-based application that helps chasing for missing band and mode slots for DXCC," Marek, DH9SB, says. "After registration and uploading a log file in ADIF you will get a personal calendar with DX information for the current week." Detailed information can be found at www.dx-info.de

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Special Prefixes

Subject to prior authorisation, individual amateur radio operators and Club stations in the United Kingdom may use special prefixes from 5 May to 10 June to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. The second letter in the existing call sign (D, I, J, M, U, W, etc, plus E for Intermediate licences) may be replaced by the letter "Q"; where no second letter

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exists, the letter "Q" may be added. For instance, GDOXXX (Isle of Man), GIOXXX (Northern Ireland), GJOXXX (Jersey), GMOXXX (Scotland), GU0XXX (Guernsey), GWOXXX (Wales) and GOXXX (England) may all be amended to GQ0XXX.

Contest Results

The second SARL 80 metre Club Contest was run on Wednesday 28 March 2012 and this was a phone contest. Logs were received from members of the Port Elizabeth ARS, the Bloemfontein RAC and the West Rand ARC.

A third log for the Bloemfontein RAC was received, it was received on time, BUT sent to the wrong e-mail address!

1st West Rand ARC - 146 points from 11 logs
 2nd Bloemfontein RAC - 52 points from 3 logs
 3rd Port Elizabeth ARS - 10 points from 1 log

The combined scores after two contest is

1st West Rand ARC - 153 points
 2nd Bloemfontein RAC - 52 points
 3rd Port Elizabeth ARS - 10 points
 4th Sasolburg ARC - 2 points

DXCC News (DXCC Card Checking Rule Change)

It was announced late last week that a notice of an upcoming change in an administrative procedure contained in the DXCC Rules. The change in the DXCC Rules will permit volunteer Card Checkers who have achieved DXCC on 160 meters to check 160 meter QSLs in the field, and all Card Checkers to check cards for Deleted Entities. Until now, there has been a requirement that Headquarters staff check 160 metre cards. The main issue has been that some cards for 18 MHz QSOs can be altered to show 1,8 MHz without the alteration being detected. Therefore, the time of the QSO becomes significant.

Some cards for Deleted Entities date back to 1960 and before, and sometimes it is difficult in the field to determine what entity the card ought to count for. Deleted Entities do not count for the DXCC Challenge or for the Honour Roll but do count toward all-time totals.

After discussion during the teleconference the "Programs and Services Committee" (PSC) unanimously voted to authorize staff to amend the DXCC rules as proposed but with no change in how Card Checkers are appointed.

For complete details on the change, please look at <http://www.arrl.org/awards-blog>

International Marconi Day

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April 2012

31 Mar to 7 Apr – Klein Karoo National Arts Festival, Oudtshoorn
 5 – SARL 80 m QSO Party
 5 to 9 – Splashy Fen Music Festival, Underberg; Sedgefield Slow Festival
 6 – Good Friday
 6 to 9 – Western Cape AWA Expo, Stanford; Two Oceans Marathon, Cape Town
 6 to 15 – The Rand Show, Johannesburg
 7 – Autumn RaDAR Contest
 9 – Family Day
 10 – Schools open
 14 – Autumn QRP Sprint
 18 – World Amateur Radio Day
 20 and 21 – Holyland Contest
 20 to 22 - SARL National Convention, Pinetown
 26 to 30 – Harley Davidson Africa Bike Week, Margate
 27 – Freedom Day; closing date May RAE
 27 and 28 – Graskop Blue Swallow festival, Graskop
 27 to 29 – Dirtopia Mountain Bike Festival, Tarentaal kral
 27 to 30 – SA Cheese Festival, Stellenbosch
 28 and 29 – John Dory's Orange River Canoe Marathon, Hopetown
 29 – Summerveld Hike, Summerveld, KZN
 30 – School holiday



Organized by the Cornish Radio Amateur Club, the International Marconi Day (IMD) is a 24-hour amateur radio event held annually to celebrate the birth of Guglielmo Marconi (25 April 1874). It is not a contest, but an opportunity for amateurs around the world to make contacts with historic Marconi sites using HF communications techniques.

This year's event will be held on 21 April, from 00:00 UTC to 23.59 UTC. Details, including information on the relevant Award Certificates and the listing of participating stations, can be found at www.gb4imd.org.uk

African DX

Mozambique, C9. Daniel, ZS6JR, and Dior, ZS6DJD, will be operating from Mozambique for seven days starting on 3 or 4 May 2012 depending how quick they can get the equipment up. The idea is to park next to a small lake at Shai Shai, Mozambique, 400 km north of the capital and operate with vertical antennas with the earth wires in the water. Daniel has decided to take a Hex beam antenna as well. The team will work mainly 20 to 10 metres, including 17 and 12 m. there may be a chance for 80 and 6 m operation.

Togo, 5V. Wim, ON4CIT, is still reporting that a DXpedition to Togo will take place at the end of 2012 or the beginning of 2013. The call sign mentioned is 5V7TH. The exact dates are still to be determined. Details are forthcoming.

African Islands

Ascension Island, ZD8. Oliver, W6NV, will once again be active as ZD8W from Ascension Island (AF-003) during the CQ WW DX CW Contest (24 to 25 November) as a Single-Op entry. Look for activity on the low bands before the contest weekend. QSL via his home call sign.

Special Event Stations

Austria. The Amateur Radio Section of ORF (the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation) and the Documentary Archives Radio Communications/QSL Collection will operate special event station OE12M on 20 - 22 April. This is an official "International Marconi Day" station and contacts made on 21 April will count for the IMD Award. QSL via OE1WHC, direct or bureau.

Sweden. Richard, SM2TOS, and some other operators will be active as SE2EE (not SG2SNF as first announced) from Porjus between 16 and 17 June. Activity will be from the Lancaster bomber "Easy Elsie," which crashed at Porjus in Sweden on 29 October 1944. They will be on the shortwave bands around the clock!

They mention that they do not have to worry about daylight, as there will be sunlight 24/7!! The sun never goes down during the summer up here in the north part of Sweden. (High above the Arctic Circle). For more details, pictures and QSL information see QRZ.com. They also have a Web site at <http://www.sm2tos.se/easyelsie/eng>

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 16 to 23 April 2012.

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest

Have YOU done anything to promote Amateur Radio this month?





01:00 - 03:00 UTC 16 April

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Band; All Band

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 22 April 2012

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at: <http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/autolog.php>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/>

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, Data

19:00 - 20:30 UTC 19 April

Mode: RTTY, PSK

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST and serial no

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 26 April 2012

Upload log at: <http://www.vhfcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2012/r80mcc.shtml>

NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:30 - 02:00 UTC 20 April

Mode: RTTY

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 22 April 2012

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

NCCC Sprint

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 20 April

Mode: (see rules)

Bands: (see rules)

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Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 22 April 2012

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.nccsprint.com/rules.html>

Holyland DX Contest

21:00 UTC 20 April to 21:00 UTC 21 April

Mode: CW, SSB, Digital

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op CW, SSB, Digital or Mixed; Single Op QRP; Multi-Single; SWL

Max power: non-QRP: >10 watts; QRP: 10 watts

Exchange: 4X: RS(T) and area; non-4X: RS(T) and serial no

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 2 points per QSO on 160 - 40 m; 1 point per QSO on 20 - 10 m

Multipliers: Each 4X area once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 31 May 2012

E-mail logs to: 4Z4KX@iarc.org

Mail logs to: Contest Manager 4Z4KX, Israel Amateur Radio Club, Box 17600, Tel Aviv 61176, Israel

Find rules at: <http://www.iarc.org/~4z1pf/Holyland%20Contest%202011%20booklet.pdf>

TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest

00:00 - 23:59 UTC 21 April

Mode: PSK, RTTY, Hell, MFSK, MT63, Throb, ASCII, SSTV, Domino EX, ALE400, Packet

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m

Classes: High; Low; Great; QRP; SWL

Max power: High: legal limit; Low: 100 W; Great: 20 W; QRP: 5 W

Exchange: Name and prefix

Work stations: Once per band

Multipliers: Each prefix once

Power mult: high = x 0,5, low = x 1, great = x 2, QRP = x 3

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSOs x total prefixes x power mult

Submit logs by: 19 May 2012

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: http://n2ty.org/seasons/tara_dpx_score.html

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_dpx_rules.html

ES Open HF Championship

05:00 - 05:59 UTC; 06:00 - 06:59 UTC; 07:00 - 07:59 UTC 21 April and 08:00 - 08:59 UTC 21 April

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 80, 40 m

Classes: Single Op Mixed; Single Op CW; Single Op SSB; Multi-Single; SWL

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Exchange: RS(T) and serial no

Work stations: Once per band per contest period

QSO Points: 2 points per CW QSO; 1 point per SSB QSO

Multipliers: Each ES region prefix (ES1 - ESO) once per band per mode

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 20 May 2012

E-mail logs to: esopen@erau.ee

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.erau.ee/index.php?Itemid=94>

CQ Manchester Mineira DX Contest

12:00 UTC 21 April to 23:59 UTC 22 April

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, Low or High; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Single

Max power: High: 1 500 watts; Low: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: All: RST and continent abbreviation; CWJF members: RST, continent and "M"; QRP: RST, continent and "Q"; YL: RST, continent and "Y"; Multi-Op, Clubs, Groups: RST, continent and "G"

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country; 2 points per QSO on 20 - 10 m with different country same continent; 4 points per QSO on 80 - 40 m with different country same continent; 3 points per QSO on 20 - 10 m with different continent; 6 points per QSO on 80 - 40 m with different continent; 3 points per QSO with maritime mobile; 10 points per QSO with CWJF member, YL or QRP station

Multipliers: Each SA prefix once per band; Each DXCC country once only

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 31 May 2012

E-mail logs to: [cjwf@cqmmdx.com](mailto:cwjf@cqmmdx.com)

Mail logs to: CWJF Group, PO Box 410, Juiz de Fora - MG 36001-970, Brazil

Find rules at: http://www.powerline.com.br/cwjf/Regulamento_Ing.pdf

Michigan QSO Party

16:00 UTC 21 April to 04:00 UTC 22 April

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, Low or High; Multi-Single; Multi-Multi; Mobile Solo Op (LP only); Mobile Multi-Op (LP only); MI EOC

Max power: HP: >100 W; LP: 100 W; QRP: 5 W

Exchange: MI: Serial no and county; non-MI: Serial no and state, province or "DX"

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 1 point per SSB QSO; 2 points per CW QSO

Multipliers: MI Stations: Each state and province once per mode; non-MI Stations: Each MI county once per mode

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 21 May 2012

E-mail logs to: logs@miqp.org

Mail logs to: Mad River Radio Club, c/o Dave Pruett, 2727 Harris Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198, USA

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Find rules at: <http://www.miqp.org/Rules.htm>

EU Spring SSB Sprint

16:00 - 19:59 UTC 21 April

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: Single Op - Low or High

Max power: HP: >100 W; LP: 100 W

Exchange: your call sign, other station's call sign, serial no and name

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 6 May 2012

E-mail logs to: eusprint@kkn.net

Mail logs to: Hrvoje Horvat, 9A6XX, 25 Rujan 4, HR-52000 Pazin, Croatia

Find rules at: <http://www.eu-sprint.com/index.php?page=140&lang=q>

South Dakota QSO Party

17:00 UTC 21 April to 17:00 UTC 22 April

Mode: CW, Phone, Digital

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2 m

Classes: Fixed - High, Low or QRP; Rover - High, Low or QRP

Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: SD: RS(T) and county; non-SD: RS(T) and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band per mode per county

QSO Points: 2 points per phone QSO; 4 points per CW QSO; 4 points per digital QSO

Multipliers: SD: Each state, province or county once only; non-SD: Each SD county once only

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 1 June 2012

E-mail logs to: SDQP@kd0s.com

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.k0mcm.com/KOMCM/SD_QSO_Party.html

EA-QRP CW Contest

17:00 - 20:00 UTC (20 - 10 m) and 20:00 - 23:00 UTC 21 April (80 m) and 07:00 - 11:00 UTC 22

April (40 m) and 11:00 - 13:00 UTC 22 April (20 - 10 m)

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: A: Single Op QRPP; B: Single Op QRP

Max power: QRP: 5 watts; QRPP: 1 watt

Exchange: RST, 1-letter category and "M" (if EA-QRP member)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 points per QSO with same country; 2 points per QSO with same continent; 4 points per QSO with different continent; 5 points per QSO with category A station

Multipliers: Each EA-QRP member once per band; Each country once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 22 May 2012

E-mail logs to: eaqrp_test@yahoo.es

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Mail logs to: Vocalia de concursos (Concurso CW), PO Box 17, E-16080, Cuenca, Spain

Find rules at:

<http://www.eaqrp.com/index.php/actividades/concurso/24-actividades/concurso-eaqrp/71-concurso-eaqrp-cw-bases>

Ontario QSO Party

18:00 UTC 21 April to 05:00 UTC 22 April and 12:00 - 18:00 UTC 22 April

Mode: CW, Phone

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2 m

Classes: Fixed: Multi-Single; Fixed: Multi-Two; Fixed: Multi-Multi; Fixed: Single Op QRP, low or high; Fixed: Single Op CW - Low or High; Fixed: Single Op Phone - Low or High; Rover/Mobile: Multi-Op; Rover/Mobile: Single Op

Max power: HP: >150 W; LP: 150 W; QRP: 5 W

Exchange: ON: RS(T) and county; non-ON: RST and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points CW QSO

Bonus: 300 points for each ON multiplier activated by a Rover/Mobile (at least 3 QSOs with 3 different stations); 10 points per QSO with VA3CCO, VE3ODX or VA3RAC

Multipliers: ON Stations: Each ON county, state, province and country once per band; non-ON Stations: each ON county once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and Bonus Points

Submit logs by: 18 May 2012

Upload log at: <http://www.va3cco.com/oqp/submitlog.htm>

Mail logs to: Contest Club Ontario, 2126 Woodsmere Court, Burlington, ON L7L 6J5, Canada

Find rules at: <http://www.va3cco.com/oqp/rules.htm>

Feld Hell Sprint

20:00 - 22:00 UTC 21 April

Mode: Feld Hell

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: Standard: 100 watts

QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Bonus Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: April 28, 2012

E-mail logs to: kj8o@wowway.com

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests/sprint-rules>

YU DX Contest

21:00 UTC 21 April to 05:00 UTC 22 April and 09:00 - 17:00 UTC 22 April

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Lower Bands QRP, low or high; Upper Bands QRP, low or high

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Max power: HP: legal limit; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: RST and ITU Zone No.

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO between stations using YU or YT prefixes; 2 points per QSO with same continent; 4 points per QSO with different continent

Multipliers: Each ITU zone once per band; Each YU or YT prefix once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 22 May 2012

E-mail logs to: yudx@yu1srs.org.rs

Mail logs to: Savez Radio-amatera Srbije, YU DX Contest, PO Box 48, 11001 Beograd, Serbia

Find rules at: http://www.yu1srs.org.rs/dl/yudx/Files/yudxrules_2012_eng.pdf

Next Week's Contests

SKCC Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 25 April

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 25 April and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 26 April

NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 27 April

10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital, 00:01 UTC 28 April to 23:59 UTC 29 April

Nebraska QSO Party, 11:00 UTC 28 April to 17:00 UTC 29 April

SP DX RTTY Contest, 12:00 UTC 28 April to 12:00 UTC 29 April

Helvetia Contest, 13:00 UTC 28 April to 12:59 UTC 29 April

QRP to the Field, 15:00 UTC 28 April to 03:00 UTC 29 April

Florida QSO Party, 16:00 UTC 28 April to 01:59 UTC 29 April, 12:00 - 21:59 UTC 29 April

BARTG Sprint 75, 17:00 - 21:00 UTC 29 April

AGCW QRP/QRP Party, 13:00 - 19:00 UTC 1 May

History This Week

A look back at events that made history this week - compiled by the Summerland Amateur Radio Club of Lismore, NSW and Dennis, ZS4BS. The week starting Monday 16 April 2012.

1474 - The Venetian Patent Law, the first of its kind in the world was enacted (19 Apr)

1861 - The first oil well fire occurred at the Little and Merrick well at Oil Creek, near Rouseville, Pennsylvania (17 Apr)

1883 - Paul Kruger chosen as President of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (16 Apr)

1893 - Paul Kruger elected for third term of office as President of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (22 Apr)

1900 - First military (Royal Navy) use of wireless in the Anglo Boer War, reaching 85 km - the radio apparatus can be seen at the Museum of the Boer republics here in Bloemfontein (16 Apr)

1906 - San Francisco earthquake (8.25 on the Richter scale) and fire kills nearly 4 000 and destroys 75% of the city (18 Apr)

1912 - American aviator Harriet Quimby became the first female pilot to fly across the English Channel (16 Apr)

1923 - Lee DeForest's Phonofilm, the first sound-on-sound film motion picture (15 Apr)

1937 - Cartoon characters Daffy Duck, Elmer Fudd and Petunia Pig debut (17 Apr)

1942 - King George VI awards the George Cross to the Island of Malta (16 Apr)

1956 - First solar powered radios go on sale (16 Apr)

2005 - Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger becomes the 265th Pope - Pope Benedict XVI (19 Apr)

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More on GPS

It is my experience and that of friends too, that GPS decisions about what turns to make to get to the desired destinations are often wrong. After all, the GPS has an internal decision making program that may have flaws or wrong logic in its design created by each GPS manufacturer. Therefore, to depend on this in a critical situation is a naive and foolish belief in the infallibility of the device. Yet, so many people have this trust. I have found that a majority of drivers have little or no map reading skills. That may be why they have to depend on GPS devices to find their way around when travelling. Poor map skills trap them into depending on the fallible substitute of the GPS device, sometimes leading to dangerous, even near tragic situations. Perhaps map-reading skills should be taught to everyone in ARES and emergency services in general. Murray Goldberg, KD2IN, Toms River, New Jersey

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Southgate ARC and Pete's DX Newsdesk.

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